Countries banning import of food items due to plague

5109. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which had banned imports of food items from India during and after the recent outbreak of plague in the country;

(b) the details of the food items banned, country-wise;

(c) the revenue losses suffered by the country as a result thereof; and

(d) the measures contemplated by Government to tackle such contigencies in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Major countries which imposed restrictions on import of food items from India were the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait.

(b) All food items.

(c) It is difficult to quantify the losses suffered on account of the plague. Total exports during October, 1994 estimated at the level of S 2198 million were 27 per cent. higher than that over October, 1993 and higher than those during any preceding month in 1994-95.

(d) Among the measures to tackle such contingencies, mention may be made of issue of guidelines to various exporters, to ensure that there is no contamination of the food products and advice to the exporters to comply with any special request that the importers or authorities in the importing countries may require to ensure that goods reach them in hygienic conditions free from bacterial contamination. A number of measures to contain disinformation were also taken. ♠

Developing appropriate strategy to guard against emerging non-tariff barriers

5110. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports on world trade have called for developing an appropriate strategy for India to guard against emerging non-tariff barriers including the unforeseen ones and to drive maximum advantage of the post GATT business opportunities; and

(b) if so, what industry-specific strategy for exports with stress on agro-products, textiles and computer software, the three areas which are likely to derive major gains, India proposes to follow with a view to guard against non-tariff barriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHR P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The formulation of a strategy to counter emerging non-tariff barriers and to derive maximum advantage of the post Uruguay Round opportunities is under constant examination and review by the Government.

As regards the possibility of non-tariff barriers emerging in the sectors referred to, developments in this regard are continuously monitored and issues taken up with the concerned governments through appropriate channels.

Permitting 100 per cent export of coffee by growers

5111. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed 100 per cent. export of coffee by the growers;

(b) if so, how the Coffee Board will ensure supply of coffee in the domestic market;

(c) whether Government is considering levy on coffee production for domestic market; and

(d) what is the role of Coffee Board in case of total decontrol of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHINDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Government has announced its decisions on FSQ on 22nd April, 1995 under which 100 per cent Free Sale Quota has been allowed to small growers having holding sie below 10 hec. and 70 per cent Free Sale Quota to other growers of coffee. Therefore, large growers having holding size of 10 hec. and above are expected to pool 30 per cent of their produce with the Board. The Coffee Board has also ben instructed to resort to direct purchase to ensure availability of coffee.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) The Coffee Board under the Coffee Act has been constituted for overall development of coffee industry in the country. In pursuance of the goals defined in the Act ,the Coffee Board will continue to provide assistance and expertise to the industry in developmental activities.

Subsidy for tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh

5112. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board will extend subsidy for tobacco farmers in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that a significant quantity of tobacco comes from tribal areas of Khammam, West Godavari and East Godavari districts, and

(c) the details of assistance proposed by Tabacco Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHR P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Tobacco farmers in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh are eligible for financial assistance under developmental and extension schemes of the Tobacco Board. It is estimated that about 0.4 million Kgs of ECV tobacco 6.5 million Kgs of burley tobacco and a small quantity of Natu tobacco was grown in the tribal areas of Khammam, West Godavari and East Godavari districts in 1994-95.

Shortage of Coffee

5113. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is an acute shortage of coffee in the country;

(b) whether the Coffee Board had anticipated the present shortage; and

(c) what are the projections of the Coffee Board for production, domestic consumption and export demand over the next five years, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHR P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is no shortage of coffee in the country.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Following projections have been made by the Coffee Board on production, consumption and export of coffee for the next five years: